

The mystery, if any mystery there be, is solved by another entry in the Mutilated Diary : ' Write the M.P. during the English Municipal Bill for L. — three leading articles a day for nearly a month.' The articles, which have been preserved in a book of cuttings, are in the strain of reckless vituperation which was then the fashion even in responsible journals, with only here and there a flash of wit or a happy phrase to redeem the personalities. That 'meagre-minded rebel Roebuck'¹ has something perhaps of the true Disraelian touch; but what would be thought to-day of a newspaper that described a great officer of State as ' this shrewd, coarse, mancBuvring Pict,' 'this base-born Scotchman,' 'this booing, fawning, jobbing progeny of haggis and cocka-leekie,' the pleasant labels affixed in the articles to the Attorney-General, Campbell.² For argument there is a great deal of the doctrine that the House of Commons is no more representative of the people than is the House of Lords ; but the constitutional theories which Disraeli was now evolving we shall find more systematically set forth in a work which was shortly to appear and which must presently engage our attention.

To Lady Blessington.

BRADENHAM,

Oct. 4 [1835].

I see by the papers that you have quitted the shores of the 'far-resounding sea' and resumed your place in the most charming of modern houses. I therefore venture to recall my existence to your memory, and request the favour of hearing some intelligence of yourself, which must always interest me. Have you been well, happy, and prosperous? And has that pen, plucked assuredly from the pinion of a bird of paradise, been idle or creative ? My lot has been as usual here, tho' enlivened by the presence of Lady Sykes, •who has contrived to pay us two visits, and the presence of

¹The ' meagre-minded rebel' before his death was made a Privy Coun. cillor by Disraeli.

²Afterwards Lord Campbell.